

H. R. 1332

RESOLUTION 78

A JOINT RESOLUTION SUGGESTING A UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMP COMMEMORATING THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BENTONVILLE, JOHNSTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.

WHEREAS, in the year 1957, the United States Congress established the United States Civil War Centennial Commission, and in 1959, the State of North Carolina established the Confederate Centennial Commission; and

WHEREAS, the charge and duty of these two agencies, as prescribed by law, are to plan and conduct appropriate observances of the one hundredth anniversary of the American Civil War; and

WHEREAS, in March of 1965, the State and Nation will mark, as a part of this four-year commemoration, the one hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Bentonville; and

WHEREAS, the Battle of Bentonville, March 19, 20, and 21, 1865, was the largest battle ever fought on North Carolina soil when General Joseph E. Johnston and two full generals besides himself, four lieutenant generals, fourteen major generals, and many brigadier generals, and a Confederate fighting force of less than 30,000 men made a stand against the Left Wing of the Union Army commanded by General William T. Sherman, consisting of 30,000 men, but joined by the Right Wing consisting of an additional 30,000 men on the second and third days of the battle; and

WHEREAS, the Battle of Bentonville was the only significant full scale Confederate attempt to stop Sherman after the Battle of Atlanta in 1864; and

WHEREAS, the Battle of Bentonville was the last major Confederate offensive in the War in which the Confederates chose the ground and made the initial attack; and

WHEREAS, those listed as killed, wounded, and missing from both armies totaled 4,243; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of North Carolina authorized in the 1957, 1959, and 1961 Sessions funds for the development of the Battle-ground as a State Historic Site, including the restoration of the Harper House used during the Battle as a Union hospital, and after the Battle as a Confederate hospital, and the erection of a visitor center-museum to receive the public; and

WHEREAS, the people of Johnston and surrounding counties have demonstrated their interest in the project by raising funds to match appropriations by the General Assembly for the development of the Battle-ground in excess of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000):

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

Section 1. The importance of the Battle of Bentonville as a part of the history of the State of North Carolina and the Nation during one of its most trying times could well be recognized through the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp on March 19, 1965, by the United States Government with the imprint thereon of an appropriate design.